



**EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
ABIDJAN BUREAU**

MAB-6007
5 March 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THRU : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Abidjan Bureau--February 1986

I. GENERAL

The U.S. dollar continued to decline against the French franc-based local CFA currency throughout February, from CFA 367 down to CFA 340. The dollar has fallen slightly more than 10 percent since the beginning of 1986 and more than 30 percent over the past year. The impact of the weaker dollar is being felt both in the bureau budget and by staff employees. For example, duty-free gas for official and private vehicles has increased from \$2.44 to \$2.72 per gallon since 1 January. Employees who run out of their monthly allotment of 30 gallons of duty-free gas have to pay about \$4 a gallon.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. Heavy fighting broke out in Chad between the Libyan-backed forces of the Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) and units of the Chadian Army for the first time since mid-1984. Ndjama radio reported on 10 February that GUNT forces had launched attacks that day south of the 16th Parallel Red Line but had been beaten off. The radio also claimed that a large number of the attackers, including Libyans, had been killed or captured. France, which had come under strong criticism last year for having withdrawn its troops from Chad while Libya reneged on its agreement to pull its forces out of northern Chad, responded by sending in military aid and personnel. On 16 February, French aircraft bombed a Libyan-controlled airfield in the north. The following day, a lone Soviet-built plane dropped a couple of bombs on Ndjama airport disrupting commercial traffic for several days. By the end of the month, the military situation appeared to have stabilized for the time being. Open-speaker coverage of Ndjama radio, combined with extensive AFP reportage, generated a heavy file. The Libyan-based Radio Bardai of the GUNT forces remained unmonitorable most of the time at both Abidjan and London Bureaus.

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2. Other major stories included the Ivory Coast's official announcements of its reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Israel and the Soviet Union and establishment of relations with Cuba as well as a Nigerian tribunal's decision to execute 13 military officers accused of plotting a coup last December. By the end of the month, the death sentences had not been carried out, and Nigeria media were reporting appeals to the government for lighter sentences.

B. Coverage

Abidjan and Key West Bureaus conducted an experiment to phone patch Haitian French-language news broadcasts to Abidjan for processing. While the quality of the phone feed itself appeared satisfactory, Key West Bureau pointed out its difficulty in obtaining a phone link into the Ivory Coast during Ivorian daytime hours and Abidjan Bureau found the Haitian recordings to be of very poor quality.

II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. All bureau staffers and accompanying family members have completed the exchange of official passports for diplomatic passports in accordance with new State Department policy on wider eligibility for the diplomatic passports. ✓

2. In response to a new State Department policy of phasing out service contracts with embassy employee associations, the post Administrative Office notified agency representatives on 25 February of its intention to request bids for contracting out the management of the jobs of about 180 support-type employees including the bureau's custodial and driver staff. A similar privatization of the post's 230-man guard force last fall is now proving considerably more expensive than had been initially estimated.

B. Buildings and Grounds

1. Four failing and inefficient split airconditioners were replaced in the bureau operations rooms during the month.

2. It was announced at the end of the month that a visit to Abidjan by an FBO site-selection team that is to determine the location of a new embassy chancery has been postponed from March to April. ✓

C. Designation of Ivory Coast

The DCM reported on 25 February that the Ivory Coast is continuing to pursue its efforts to be identified internationally as

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Cote d'Ivoire rather than Ivory Coast. The State Department had responded unfavorably in December to a post proposal to change USG usage in accordance with Ivorian preference.



Chief, Abidjan Bureau

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Attachments:

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Swaziland Bureau
Deputy Chief, London Bureau
Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Abidjan Bureau Production Report for February 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	246206
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	14200
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	782

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE: (minutes or issues per week)	8118.00 min.	26521.00 min.	109.00 issues
III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES: (publishable words per month)			

BENIN

Cotonou Domestic Service in French	4610		
Parakou Domestic Service in French	1120		
Cotonou EHUZU in French			150

BURKINA

Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French	11110		
Ouagadougou CARREFOUR AFRICAIN in French			0
Ouagadougou SIDWAYA in French			0

CAMEROON

Yaounde Domestic Service in English	760		
Yaounde Domestic Service in French	2210		
Yaounde CAMEROON TRIBUNE in English			820
Yaounde CAMEROON TRIBUNE in French			0

CAPE VERDE

Praia VOZ DI POVO in Portuguese			0
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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Bangui Domestic Service in French	600		
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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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CHAD

Ndjamena Domestic Service in

French

17320

(clandestine) Bardai National Radio in

French

1190

CONGO

Brazzaville Domestic Service in

French

0

Brazzaville BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN in

French

0

Brazzaville ETUMBA in

French

0

*Brazzaville MWETI in

French

0

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Malabo Domestic Service in

Spanish

0

FRANCE

Paris AFP in

English

30580

Paris AFP in

French

33956

Paris Diplomatic Information Service

in French

0

Paris Diplomatic Information Service

in English

1530

Paris AFRIQUE-ASIE in

French

0

Paris JEUNE AFRIQUE in

French

0

5300

GABON

Libreville Africa No. 1 in

French

5140

Libreville Domestic Service in

French

240

Libreville L'UNION in

French

0

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BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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GHANA

Accra Domestic Service in
English

14680

Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in
English

0

Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in
English

0

Accra WEEKLY MIRROR in
English

0

Accra WEEKLY SPECTATOR in
English

0

GUINEA

Conakry Domestic Service in
French

1670

Conakry HOROYA in
French

0

GUINEA-BISSAU

Bissau NO PINTCHA in
Portuguese

0

IVORY COAST

Abidjan Domestic Service in
French

2650

Abidjan Television Service in
French

0

Abidjan FRATERNITE HEBDO in
French

0

Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in
French

5900

Abidjan IVOIRE DIMANCHE in
French

0

LIBERIA

Monrovia Domestic Service in
English

870

Monrovia Radio ELWA in
English

10320

Monrovia NEW LIBERIAN in
English

0

MALI

Bamako Domestic Service in
French

8830

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Bamako L'ESSOR in French			0
MAURITANIA			
Nouakchott Domestic Service in French	1340		
Nouakchott CHAAB in French			0
NIGER			
Niamey Domestic Service in French	3530		
Niamey LE SAHEL in French			0
Niamey SAHEL HEBDO in French			0
NIGERIA			
Lagos International Service in English	3530		
Lagos Domestic Service in English	20070		
Kaduna Domestic Service in English	1100		
Lagos NAN in English		13160	
Lagos DAILY TIMES in English			0
*Lagos NATIONAL CONCORD in English			0
Lagos THE GUARDIAN in English			0
SENEGAL			
Dakar Domestic Service in French	11060		
DAKAR PANA in English		12570	
Dakar PANA in French		8490	
Dakar LE SOLEIL in French			0
SIERRA LEONE			
Freetown Domestic Service in English	0		

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
Freetown DAILY MAIL in English			0
THE GAMBIA Banjul GAMBIA NEWS BULLETIN in English			0
TOGO Lome Domestic Service in French	4720		
Lome LA NOUVELLE MARCHE in French			0
ZAIRE Kinshasa Domestic Service in French	1290		
Kinshasa AZAP in French		3790	
Kinshasa ELIMA in French			0